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PTO/SB/05 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0032

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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	AYR322.01
First Inventor	AYRES, Randall
Title	DISPOSABLE BARRIER FOR LABORATORY SPLASH PAN
Express Mail Label No.	EL226935054US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

- ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
- ☒ Applicant claims small entity status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.
- ☒ Specification [Total Pages 12]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross Reference to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
- ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 2]
- Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 2]
 - ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
 - ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
- ☐ Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

- ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
- Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
 - ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF)
 - Specification Sequence Listing on:
 - ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
 - ☐ paper
 - ☐ Statements verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

- ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
- ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) ☐ Power of Attorney
- ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☒ Copies of IDS Citations
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
- ☐ Other:

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation	<input type="checkbox"/> Divisional	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation-in-part (CIP)	of prior application No.
Prior application information		Examiner	Group / Art Unit

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion of the disclosure is omitted from the submitted application parts.

18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number or Bar Code Label		or <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence address below
(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)		

Name	PRESSEISEN & REIDELBACH, P.C.				
Address	110 West C Street				
	Suite 714				
City	San Diego	State	CA	Zip Code	92101
Country	USA	Telephone	619-234-4057	Fax	619-696-7312

Name (Print/Type)	Nadeem G. Bridi	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	42,361
Signature			Date 10 November 2000

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2001

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	10 November 2000
First Named Inventor	Randall Ayres
Examiner Name	
Group Art Unit	
Attorney Docket No.	AYR322.01

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)

391

METHOD OF PAYMENT

1. ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to

Deposit Account Number

Deposit Account Name

☐ Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17

☒ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

2. ☒ Payment Enclosed:

☒ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101 710	201 355	Utility filing fee	355
106 320	206 160	Design filing fee	
107 490	207 245	Plant filing fee	
108 710	208 355	Reissue filing fee	
114 150	214 75	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$) 355

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
24	-20** = 4	9	36
3	-3** = 0	40	0
Multiple Dependent			0

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description
103 18	203 9	Claims in excess of 20
102 80	202 40	Independent claims in excess of 3
104 270	204 135	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109 80	209 40	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110 18	210 9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$) 36

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

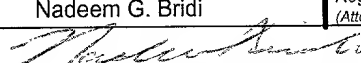
Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105 130	205 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127 50	227 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139 130	139 130	Non-English specification	
147 2,520	147 2,520	For filing a request for <i>ex parte</i> reexamination	
112 920*	112 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113 1,840*	113 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115 110	215 55	Extension for reply within first month	
116 390	216 195	Extension for reply within second month	
117 890	217 445	Extension for reply within third month	
118 1,390	218 695	Extension for reply within fourth month	
128 1,890	228 945	Extension for reply within fifth month	
119 310	219 155	Notice of Appeal	
120 310	220 155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121 270	221 135	Request for oral hearing	
138 1,510	138 1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140 110	240 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141 1,240	241 620	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142 1,240	242 620	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143 440	243 220	Design issue fee	
144 600	244 300	Plant issue fee	
122 130	122 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123 50	123 50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126 240	126 240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581 40	581 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146 710	246 355	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149 710	249 355	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
179 710	279 355	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169 900	169 900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify) _____

* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) 0

SUBMITTED BY

Name (Print/Type)	Nadeem G. Bridi	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	42,361	Telephone	(619) 234-4057
Signature		Date	10 November 2000		

Complete (if applicable)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

Burden Hour Statement. This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Small Entity Declaration
Attorney Docket No.: AYR322.01
Page 1

Applicant or Patentee: Randall W. Ayres

For: DISPOSABLE BARRIER FOR A LABORATORY SPLASH PAN

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9 (f) and 1.27(b)) -- INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled DISPOSABLE BARRIER FOR A LABORATORY SPLASH PAN described in

- ☒ the specification file herewith
- ☐ application serial no. _____, filed _____.
- ☐ patent no. _____, issued _____.

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ no such person, concern, or organization
- ☐ persons, concerns or organizations listed below*

Small Entity Declaration

Attorney Docket No.: AYR322.01

Page 2

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fees due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Randal W. Ayres

NAME OF INVENTOR

Randal W. Ayres

Signature of Inventor

11-09-00
Date

DISPOSABLE BARRIER FOR A LABORATORY SPLASH PAN

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to barriers of infectious agents, and more specifically, to a disposable laboratory splash pan insert having a nonporous and rigid surface.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The control of infectious agents is a constant concern for all health care professionals. Health care professionals, such as physicians and dentists, are exposed to a vast array of microorganisms and other infectious agents in the bodily fluids of patients. The need to control the spread of such contaminants to fellow health care workers or patients is paramount.

Accordingly, various techniques have been developed to keep the work environment and patient interaction areas free from infectious microorganisms, including bacteria and viruses. In recent years, the Operational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has been mandated by the United States Congress to implement procedures and requirements in the workplace to protect employees from exposure to blood borne pathogens. In a similar effort, the American Dental Association has issued recommendations to help control occupational transmission of infectious disease. One such recommendation states that ragwheels and laboratory splash pans, commonly used to clean and polish denture fixtures, be autoclaved or disinfected after each use. Autoclaving is a process used in the art for steam sterilization of equipment or materials. Alternate autoclaving processes utilize chemical reactions at high temperature and under pressure. Such a process requires the use of a strong steel vessel to carry out the autoclave

process and can be quite time consuming. Additionally, the expense of purchasing or utilizing an autoclave can be significant. As a result, many technicians often forgo utilizing the time intensive autoclave process, and may simply wipe down the equipment with a common disinfectant. However, the elimination of many infectious agents is only possible when done under high heat, as in an autoclave.

Laboratory splash pans are often used by such health care professionals as dentists to clean and polish dentures. The dentist typically places the denture within the pan, and using a polishing agent such as pumice, polishes or cleans the denture. The splash pan is utilized to keep the surrounding surface free of debris and microorganisms typically released during such a process. According to the recommendations of the American Dental Association, the splash pan should be autoclaved or otherwise disinfected after each cleaning or polishing, so as to reduce the risk of passing on infectious agents to the dentist or subsequent denture wearers. Such a process, although effective in reducing the risk of transmitting infectious agents, is inefficient and relatively expensive. Consequently, the autoclaving process may often times be omitted, increasing the likelihood of passing on infectious agents. There is therefore a need for a time efficient and cost effective means to prevent the spread of infectious agents during the utilization of laboratory splash pans.

The present invention addresses these and other problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a device for preventing the transmission of infectious

microorganisms to a laboratory splash pan, and consequently from patient to patient, often utilized to clean or polish prosthetics carrying such infectious microorganisms. The device utilizes a disposable insert having the general shape of the interior surface of a laboratory splash pan, so as to allow the insert to fit snugly within the splash pan. Flaps extending from the base of the insert are designed so as to fold over the elevated lip of the splash pan, providing a means to protect the lip of the splash pan, and also assisting in securing the insert within the splash pan.

In accordance with one aspect of the invention, side walls project upward from a distal portion of the insert, so as to protect corresponding side walls of the splash pan. Similarly, a back wall may also project from the base of the insert, so as to protect a corresponding back wall on the splash pan. Additionally, a top surface may be included to protect an overhanging canopy present in some splash pans.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a sealable reservoir may be included within the base of the insert to retain polishing or cleaning agents, such as pumice, commonly used when dental prosthetics are cleaned in such splash pans. The inclusion of a reservoir necessitates that the base of the insert be of a thickness sufficient to provide room for the reservoir to be formed and still provide protection for the splash pan.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide an inexpensive and time efficient means to protect patients and health care workers from the spread of infectious microorganisms during the use of laboratory splash pans.

It is a further object of this invention to provide adequate protection against the spread of infectious agents during the repetitive use of laboratory splash pans, without necessitating the use

of an autoclave after each use of the splash pan.

It is yet another object of this invention to provide a convenient means to access polishing or cleaning agents when utilizing a laboratory splash pan, without bringing surrounding surface areas into contact with infectious microorganisms.

5 The foregoing has outlined some of the more pertinent objects of the present invention. These objects should be construed to be merely illustrative of some of the more prominent features and applications of the invention. Many other beneficial results can be attained by applying the disclosed invention in a different manner or by modifying the invention as will be described. Accordingly, other objects and a fuller understanding of the invention may be had by
10 referring to the following Detailed Description of the Invention, which includes the preferred embodiment.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 These and other features and advantages of the invention will now be described with reference to the drawings of certain preferred embodiments, which are intended to illustrate and not to limit the invention, and in which:

FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a laboratory splash pan insert as utilized with a standard laboratory splash pan in accordance with the teachings of the present invention.

20 FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of a laboratory splash pan insert constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the base of an alternate embodiment of a splash pan

insert constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of a splash pan insert constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, wherein no side panels or back wall are required.

5 FIG. 5 is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of a splash pan insert constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, wherein a top panel is further utilized.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

10 The present invention provides a disposable barrier for protection of laboratory splash pans from contamination of infectious microorganisms.

Referring now to FIG. 1 in particular there is shown a perspective view of a splash pan insert 10 as used to protect a laboratory splash pan 12 from the spread of infectious microorganisms. The splash pan insert 10 is of a size and shape customized to fit snugly against the interior surface of a laboratory splash pan 12. The general size and shape of the insert 10 will vary according to the specified splash pan it is to be utilized with. The splash pan 12 depicted is a splash pan commonly utilized in dental laboratories for cleaning or polishing dentures. Such a splash pan is commonly sold under the trademark known as "Almore," manufactured by Sullivan-Shein. It is to be understood however, that the present invention may be altered in shape to fit a wide array of splash pans, or similar articles that may necessitate a disposable barrier from infectious microorganisms.

5 The splash pan insert 10 includes a base 14 that forms a tray having an elevated perimeter 16 that extends the full perimeter of the base 14. The relative height of the elevated perimeter 16 is preferably in the range of about 2.5 centimeters to 4 centimeters, but it is to be understood that this dimension may vary to fit variations in size of various splash pans. Flaps 18 extend from the perimeter 16 so as to fold over and protect the elevated lip 20 of the splash pan 12 when the insert 10 is placed within the interior of the splash pan 12. The flaps 18 are preferably of a dimension equivalent to that of the elevated perimeter 16, so as to substantially cover the elevated lip 20 of the splash pan. Side panels 22a,b project upward from the base 14 to protect corresponding side walls 24a,b of the splash pan 12. The side panels 22a,b are typically located towards the distal, or rearward, portion of the base 14, so as to allow ease of accessibility to the opening of the splash pan 12, which is proximal to the user. A back wall 26 projects upward from the base 14 to protect a corresponding back wall 28 of the splash pan 12, and as with the side panels 22a,b is located distal to the user. The height of the back wall 26 and side panels 22a,b are preferably in the range of about 14 centimeters to 30 centimeters, such that they cover a substantial portion of corresponding walls and panels on a variety of splash pans.

15 A reservoir 30 is positioned within the base 14 to provide a basin in which to hold cleansing or polishing material typically used in the laboratory, such as pumice for example. A removable cover 32 is placed over the reservoir 30 in order to protect and secure the material within the reservoir 30. It should be understood however, that the reservoir 30 is provided as an additional feature to the invention, for convenience of the user when utilizing polishing or cleaning agents. Alternate embodiments (not shown) may be constructed that do not contain a

reservoir 30 within the base 14.

The reservoir is formed within the base 14, and as shown in the cross sectional view illustrated in FIG.2 is integral with the base 14. The base 14 is of a thickness 34 so as to accommodate the depth necessary of the reservoir 30 while also maintaining protection for the splash pan 12 directly beneath the reservoir 30. The thickness 34 of the base 14 is in the range of about 2.0 millimeters to about 2.0 centimeters, but is preferably about 1.5 centimeters, such that it does not rise greater than halfway up the elevated lip 20 of the splash pan 12. Alternatively, the base 14 may be elevated a distance equivalent to the thickness 34 of the preferred embodiment by supports 35, such as ridges or an elevated grid, positioned throughout the underside of the base 14, as illustrated in FIG. 3. Although the integral formation of the reservoir 30 within the base 14 is preferred to avoid potential leakage, the reservoir 30 may be removable from a cavity within the base 14 in alternate embodiments (not shown). It is to be understood that in embodiments not utilizing a reservoir, the base may be of a minimal thickness, similar to that of the side panels 22a,b and back wall 26, but is preferably in the range of about 0.1 centimeters and 1.0 centimeters.

An alternate embodiment, as depicted in FIG. 4, may be utilized wherein protection of side walls and back walls of a splash pan are not required, such as in splash pans that are not constructed with projecting side or back walls. In such an embodiment, the flaps 18 encompass the entire perimeter of the splash pan.

An additional embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. 5 may be constructed where it is desirable to protect the interior surface of an overhanging canopy 36 (shown in FIG. 1) that may

be present in some splash pans. In such an embodiment, a top panel 38 is formed with the side panels 22 and back wall 26.

The composition of the insert 10 is of a material capable of preventing infectious microorganisms from penetrating through to the splash pan 12. Additionally, it is preferable that the material be easily and inexpensively manufactured so as to facilitate the disposable nature of the invention. It is thus preferable that the insert 10 be made of a non-porous durable plastic material. In the alternative, the insert 10 may be constructed of a durable material, such as cardboard, that is lined with a non-porous material such as wax paper or a plastic membrane.

While the invention has been described herein with reference to certain preferred embodiments, these embodiments have been presented by way of example only, and not to limit the scope of the invention. Accordingly, the scope of the invention should be identified only in accordance with the claims that follow.

I claim:

1. A disposable barrier for a laboratory splash pan comprising:
a non-porous, rigid, disposable insert having the general shape of the inside surface of a laboratory splash pan.
2. The disposable barrier of claim 1 wherein said insert is removably seatable within a splash pan.
3. The disposable barrier of claim 1 further comprising at least one flap formed with a bottom surface of said insert for folding over an elevated lip of a dental splash pan.
4. The disposable barrier of claim 1 further comprising a back wall projecting upward from a distal end of said insert.
5. The disposable barrier of claim 4 further comprising two side panels projecting upward from parallel sides of a bottom surface of said insert.
6. The disposable barrier of claim 5 wherein said side panels project upward from a distal portion of said insert.
7. The disposable barrier of claim 6 further comprising a top panel formed with said back wall and said side panels.
8. The disposable barrier of claim 1 further comprising a reservoir formed within said insert.
9. The disposable barrier of claim 8 wherein said reservoir is integrally formed within a bottom surface of said insert.
10. The disposable barrier of claim 8 further comprising a removable cover to secure a substance within said reservoir.

11. A disposable barrier for a laboratory splash pan comprising:
a non-porous, rigid, disposable base having elevated sides so as to form a recessed tray.
12. The disposable barrier of claim 11 further comprising a reservoir formed within said base
for retention of a substance.
- 5 13. The disposable barrier for a laboratory splash pan of claim 11 further comprising a
foldable flap extending around a perimeter of said base, so as to be folded over an
elevated perimeter of a splash pan.
- 10 14. The disposable barrier for a laboratory splash pan of claim 11 further comprising a back
wall projecting upward from a distal end of said base so as to substantially cover a distal
wall of a splash pan.
- 15 15. The disposable barrier for a laboratory splash pan of claim 14 further comprising side
panels projecting upward from said base so as to substantially cover side walls of a splash
pan.
16. The disposable barrier for a laboratory splash pan of claim 11 further comprising a
removable cover to secure a substance within said reservoir.
17. The disposable barrier for a laboratory splash pan of claim 15 further comprising a top
panel formed with said back wall and said side panels.
18. A method for protecting the interior surface of a splash pan, comprising:
seating a nonporous, rigid, disposable tray within a splash pan.
- 20 19. The method of claim 18 further comprising integrally forming a reservoir within said
disposable tray.

20. The method of claim 18 further comprising projecting a back wall from a distal end of said disposable tray so as to substantially cover the interior surface of a back wall of the splash pan.
21. The method of claim 18 further comprising folding a flap of material over a projecting lip of a base of a splash pan.
22. The method of claim 20 further comprising projecting side panels upward from said disposable tray so as to substantially cover the interior surface of side walls of a splash pan.
23. The method of claim 19 further comprising securing a substance within said reservoir by means of a removable cover.
24. The method of claim 22 further comprising protecting the interior surface of an overhanging canopy of a splash pan by means of a top panel.

ABSTRACT

A disposable barrier for a laboratory splash pan made of a non-porous yet durable material, form fitted to fit snugly within the interior surface of a laboratory splash pan, so as to avoid the need to autoclave or disinfect such pans after each use. A reservoir is formed within the base of the insert to provide a convenient means to store cleaning or polishing agents, such as pumice, within the insert. Flaps extend from the base of the insert to protect the elevated perimeter of the splash pan, and assist in securing the insert within the splash pan. Side and back walls project upward from the insert to protect and shield corresponding side and back walls of the splash pan. A top panel may be utilized to protect the interior surface of an overhanging canopy present in some splash pans.

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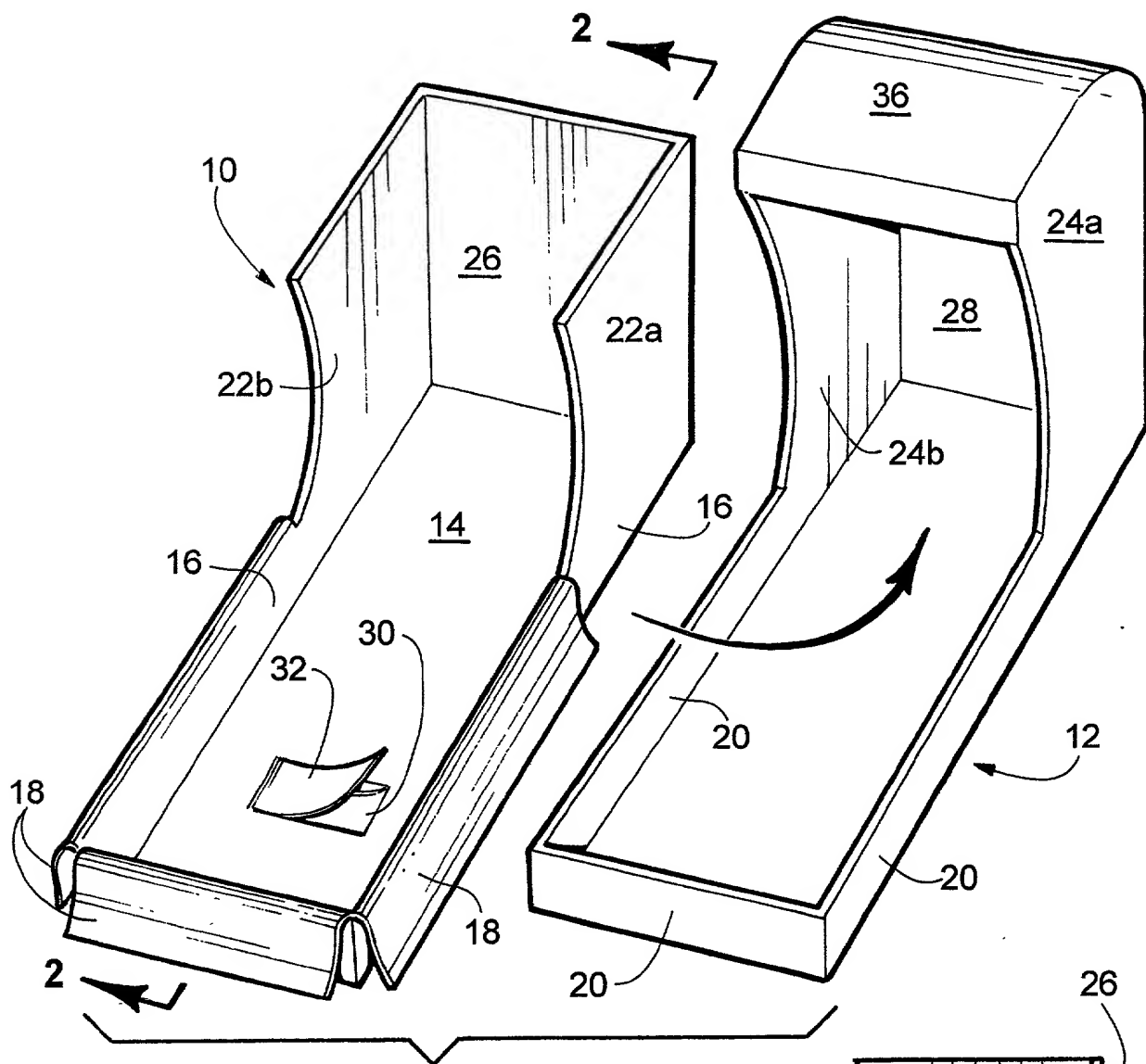


Fig. 1

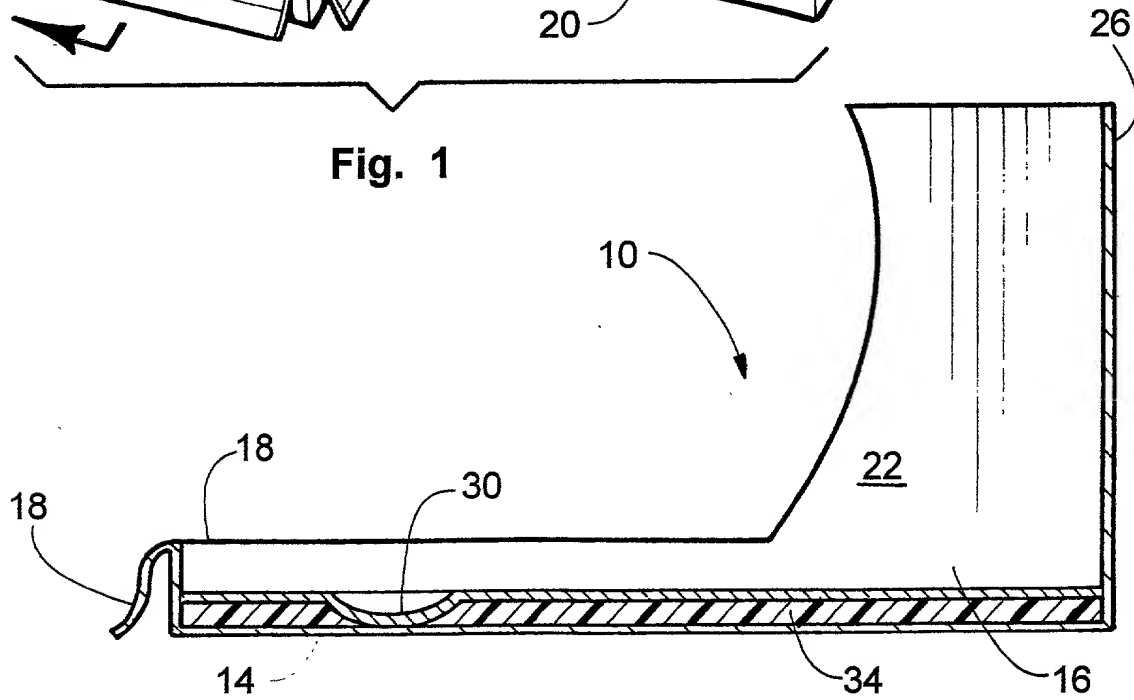


Fig. 2

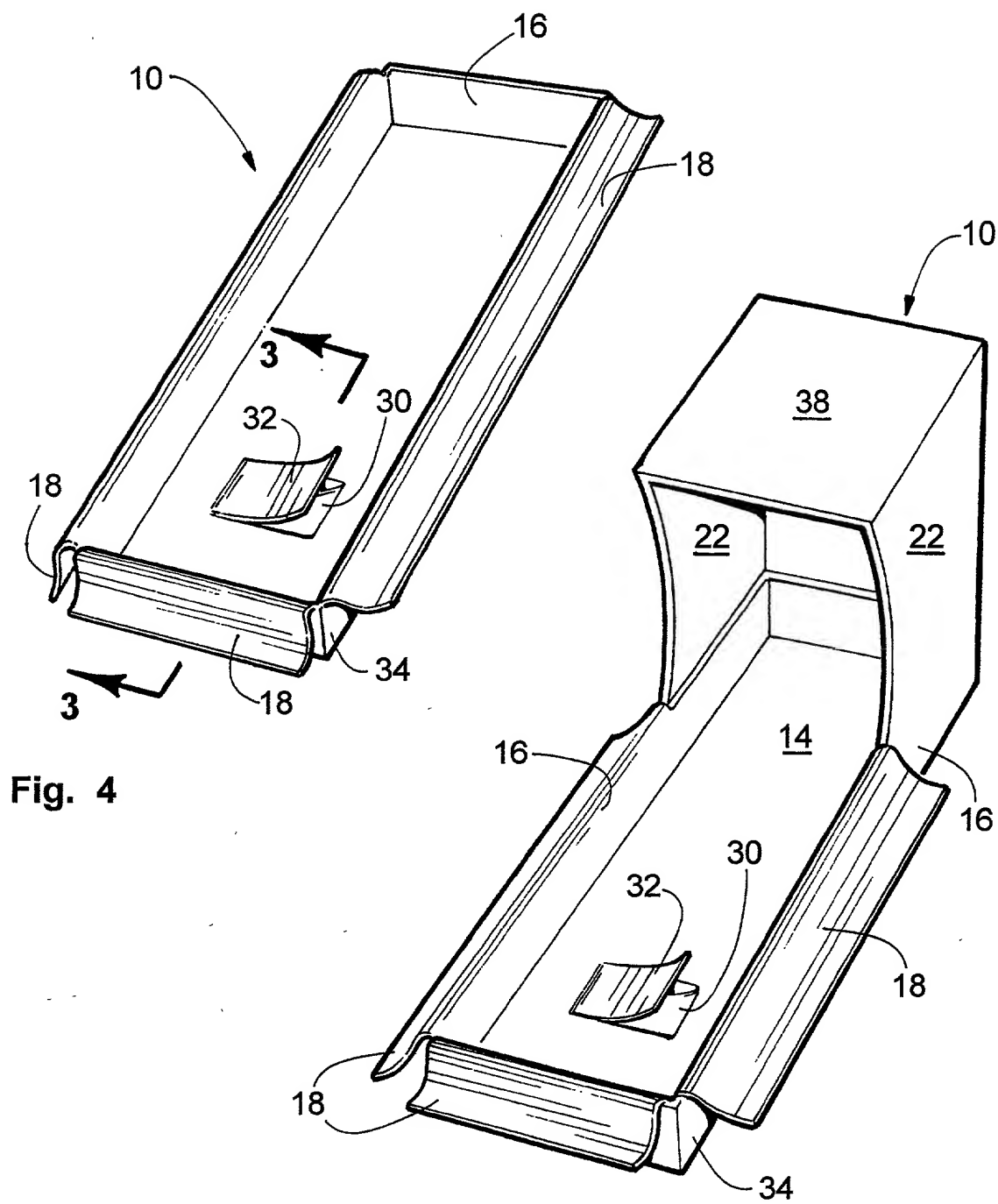


FIG. 5

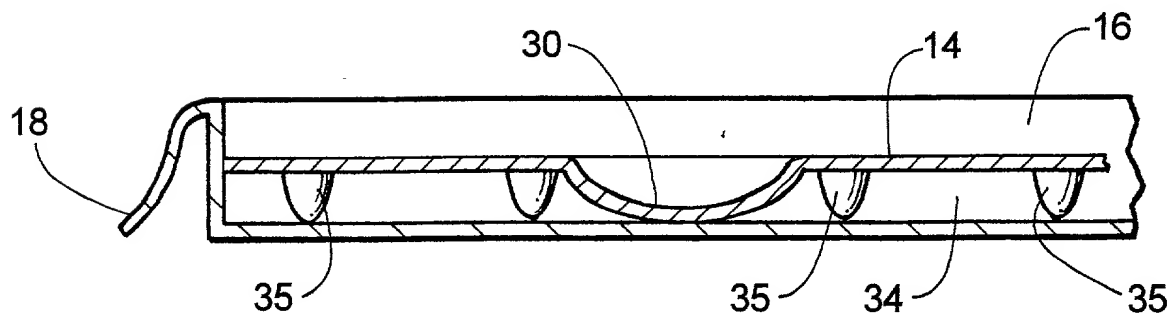


FIG. 3

Attorney's Docket No.: AYR322.01

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

(37 CFR §1.63)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought in the invention entitled, DISPOSABLE BARRIER FOR A LABORATORY SPLASH PAN, the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56.

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Charles F. Reidelbach, Jr., Esq., Reg. No. 36,649

Nadeem G. Bridi, Esq., Reg. No. 42,361

Address all correspondence to: PRESSEISEN & REIDELBACH

A Professional Law Corporation

110 West "C" Street, Suite 714

San Diego, CA 92101

Address all telephone calls to: (619) 234-4057

FAX: (619) 696-7312

Declaration for Patent Application
Attorney Docket No.: AYR322.01
Page two

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believe to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by a fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Inventor: Randall W. Ayres

Inventor's signature: Randall W. Ayres

Date: 11/10/00

Residence: United States of America

Citizenship: United States

Post Office Address: 3376 Boundary Street

San Diego, California 92104

United States of America